

WE CLAIM:

1           1.    A zero-turning-radius power mower for operation  
2    by a standing-occupant, comprising:  
3                an engine;  
4                at least one cutting member powered by said  
5    engine;  
6                first and second rear drive wheels each  
7    independently driveable in both forward and reverse  
8    directions so as to allow for substantially zero-radius-  
9    turning of said mower about a turning point when said  
10   rear drive wheels are driven in a predetermined manner;  
11   and  
12               a riding platform for supporting the standing-  
13   occupant, said riding platform being located  
14   substantially at said turning point so that the standing-  
15   occupant is substantially unaffected by centrifugal force  
16   created during zero-radius-turning of said mower.

1           2.    The power mower according to claim 1, wherein  
2    said platform and said turning point are located between  
3    said first and second rear drive wheels.

1           3.    The power mower according to claim 2, wherein  
2   at least one of said first and second rear drive wheels  
3   is rotatable about an axis, and said platform is located  
4   on or below said axis so as to create a low center of  
5   gravity of said mower thereby resulting in a safer mower  
6   less susceptible to tipping.

1           4.    The power mower according to claim 2, wherein  
2   said first and second rear drive wheels are  
3   hydrostatically controlled by way of first and second  
4   independent hydrostatic motors respectively, said first  
5   hydrostatic motor driving and controlling said first rear  
6   drive wheel and said second hydrostatic motor driving and  
7   controlling said second rear drive wheel.

1           5.    A power mower for operation by a standing-  
2   occupant, comprising:  
3                an engine for driving a cutting member;  
4                first and second rear drive wheels each  
5   rotatable about a common axis;  
6                a riding platform fixedly mounted on said mower  
7   for supporting the standing-occupant, said platform being  
8   located between said first and second rear drive wheels  
9   during operation of said mower so that when the standing-  
10   occupant stands on said platform the standing-occupant is  
11   between said first and second rear drive wheels along  
12   said common axis, whereby said platform is less

13 susceptible to impacting the ground when going over bumps  
14 and the like.

1           6.    The power mower according to claim 5, wherein  
2 said first rear drive wheel is mounted on a first axle  
3 and said second rear drive wheel is mounted on a second  
4 axle spaced from said first axle, said platform being  
5 fixedly located between said first and second axles.

1           7.    The power mower according to claim 5, wherein  
2 said platform includes a substantially flat portion for  
3 supporting the standing-occupant, said flat portion being  
4 disposed vertically below said axis so as to create a low  
5 center of gravity thereby resulting in a mower less  
6 susceptible to tipping.

1           8.    The power mower according to claim 5, further  
2 comprising:  
3               at least one front wheel;  
4               a mower deck below which is disposed said  
5 cutting member; and  
6               wherein said mower deck is disposed between  
7 said engine and said at least one front wheel whereby the  
8 mower deck is able to pass under low hanging obstacles  
9 which would prohibit the engine portion of the mower from  
10 passing so that the mower is able to cut additional areas  
11 under such low hanging obstacles.

1           9.    The power mower according to claim 5, wherein  
2    said first and second rear drive wheels are independently  
3    driveable in both forward and reverse directions so as to  
4    allow for substantially zero-radius-turning of said mower  
5    about a central point, and wherein at least a portion of  
6    said platform is fixedly located at said central point so  
7    that the standing-occupant is not adversely affected by  
8    centrifugal force created during said zero-radius-turning  
9    of said mower.

1           10.   A power lawn mower for operation by a standing-  
2    occupant, comprising:  
3                an engine for driving a cutting member;  
4                first and second drive wheels mounted on first  
5    and second axles respectively;  
6                a platform for supporting the standing-  
7    occupant, said platform being located between said first  
8    and second axles so that when the standing-occupant is on  
9    said platform the standing-occupant is between said first  
10   and second drive wheels.

1           11. The power mower according to claim 10, wherein  
2 said platform includes a flat portion for supporting the  
3 standing-occupant, said flat portion being fixedly  
4 located vertically below the rotational axes of said  
5 drive wheels thereby creating a low center of gravity of  
6 said mower in normal operating circumstances.

1           12. The power mower according to claim 11, wherein  
2 said first and second drive wheels are rear independently  
3 driven and controlled drive wheels.